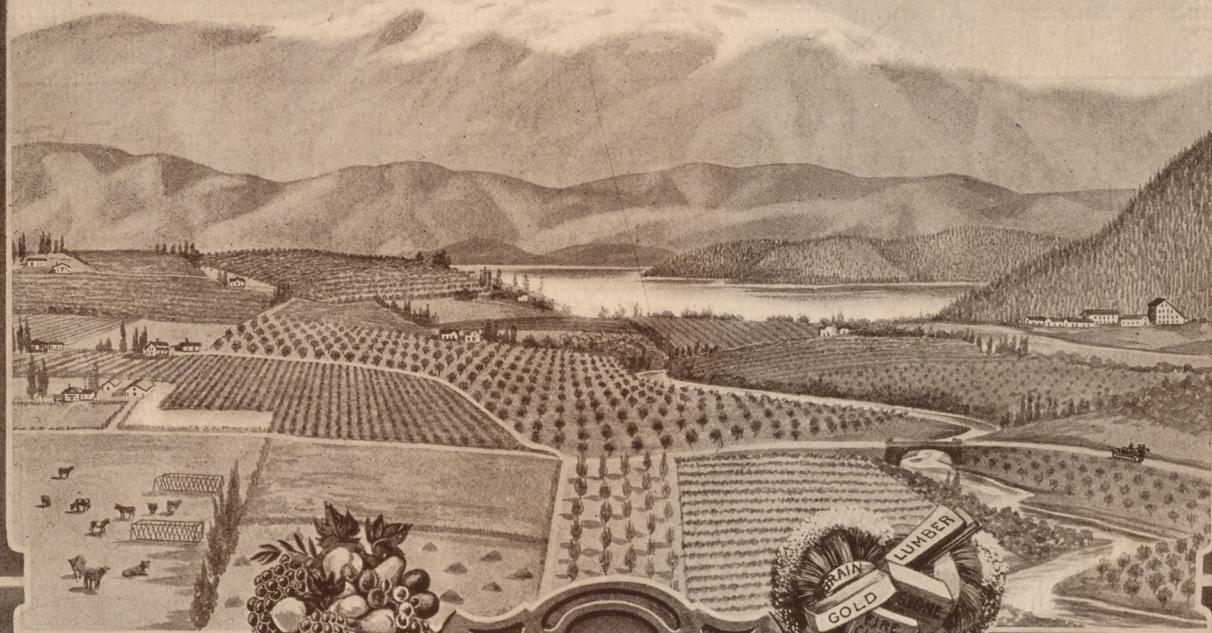


# THE GREAT WEST MAGAZINE

AMADOR COUNTY  
CALIFORNIA



THE FRUIT GROWER  
THE FARMER, THE  
DAIRYMAN AND THE  
MINER ALL GET  
SURE RETURNS  
IN AMADOR

WHERE GLORIOUS  
CALIFORNIA  
IS AT HER  
BEST

RICH DEEP SOIL  
PLENTY OF WATER  
PERFECT CLIMATE  
ALL CONDITIONS  
TO MAKE LIFE  
PLEASANT

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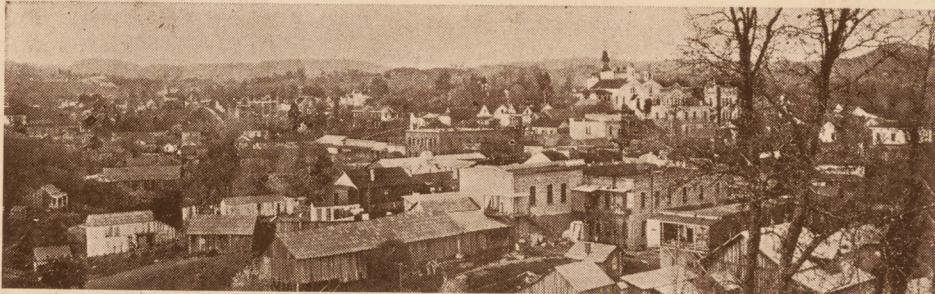
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Birdseye View of Jackson, the County Seat

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## AMADOR'S FERTILE FOOTHILLS

By N. R. TAYLOR, U. S. Weather Bureau



UCH has been said and written about the level lands of the Sacramento Valley, with its broad river, its matchless soil, its temperate climate. But what about the foothills such as we find in Amador County? What about those delightful

slopes and valleys that have never yet been furrowed by implements other than the miner's pick and shovel, and where the real gold of commerce still awaits the husbandman's efforts?

There are at least 3,000,000 acres of tillable and highly productive land, ranging in elevation from 500 to 3,000 feet. At the lower levels can be grown almost everything that is produced in the valley itself, and at the highest elevation deciduous fruits are in their natural element. From the 2,000 to the 3,000 foot levels apples and pears will grow that vie in flavor with those of the famous Hood and Rogue River Valleys.

will thrive with little attention and no artificial irrigation, where English walnuts and almonds will yield plentifully, and where vegetables of every variety will flourish. From the valley level up to 1,500 feet olives will grow to perfection and yield bountifully.

Oak and pine trees are there in abundance, and the farmer who settles in the hills has solved the fuel problem for all time.

But, the greatest of all, there is liberty and freedom in the hill country, where a poor man may now buy a hundred or so acres without leaving a mortgage to his grandchildren. And on the hundred or so acres there will be room for a dozen ventures. There will be pasturage land for horses and cows, grain land, a patch or so of level land for garden truck and alfalfa, some rough acres where the trees should be left standing, but where Angora goats, a coming industry in the hill lands, should be turned loose to feed on the manzanita and other shrubbery; and the sunny slopes for fruit, the money crop.



Foothill Grapes are Delicious

At these elevation there is a climate unequalled, the temperature being relatively mild, and the rains abundant from about the middle of October to the middle of May, with now and then a light snow flurry at the higher levels, just enough enough to suggest a touch of Winter. Along the slopes of the hills are the thermal zones, where the perfect air drainage will not permit of the formation of destructive frosts in the late Spring and early Fall. Vegetables may be nipped in the valleys and the low places, but the hillsides will be found verdant.

The soil is that of the Sierra clay or sandy loam, that so strongly appeals to the horticulturist, and is either red, brown or dark colored; or a soft, yielding humus with a decomposed granite mixture, all of which may be cultivated in the driest season.

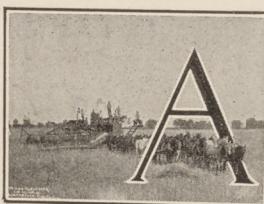
It is in the foothills, at elevations ranging from 500 to 2,000 feet, where the most luscious grapes on earth

If one cannot find a ranch under a ditch, what matter when there is plenty of water for the digging, for there is more rainfall than in the valley by from five to ten inches, and the water is always there, just beneath the surface.

At present foothill land, unimproved, can be bought for from \$12 to \$30 an acre, according to its proximity to a railroad. Five years from now it will bring from \$30 to \$100. Ten years hence will see farms on every hillside of the foothill section, settled mostly by foreigners, who know the value of such lands and how to bring out the best that is in them.

In two more years, at least, Castle Garden will have been moved from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and there will be a million people heading for California from all parts of the world, and half of them will overflow into the foothills and grab the lands there that now lie idle.

## READY MARKET FOR FARMING PRODUCTS



GRICULTURE is one of the important industries of Amador County. The towns depend mainly on the farms for their meat, fruit, vegetables, eggs and grain.

The southeastern district, which comprises the country around Amador City, Sutter Creek, Jackson and Volcano, produces vegetables of all kinds with which to furnish the towns. On the hillsides grain is raised

and Forest Home, raises thousands of head of cattle for beef and dairying. Most every farm carries on dairying to some extent. Much poultry is raised in that section to supply the near-by towns with eggs. Many eggs are shipped to Sacramento and other points. The principal poultry raised is chickens. Turkeys, ducks, geese and pigeons also do well. Many sheep and goats are grown.

Thousands of sacks of wheat, barley and oats are grown each year in the beautiful Shenandoah Valley. Much grain hay and some grain and alfalfa are pro-



Phoning For Settlers.  
Some Pumpkins, You Bet.

An Amador County Herd.  
Poland-China Hogs Pay Well.  
Harvesting on Sunny Hills.  
White Leghorns Are Numerous.

An Ione Valley Scene.  
Sheep Dot the Ranges.

and much good pasture is furnished for cattle on the uncultivated land. In the higher altitudes the land is used for summer grazing, and dairying is carried on there; but the raising of beef cattle is of still greater importance. Some horses, also hogs, chickens, and turkeys, are raised.

The northwestern section of the county, which comprises the country around Oleta, Plymouth, Drytown

duced west of Plymouth. Other grains raised in this section are yellow corn and Egyptian corn. Many hogs are grown.

The southwestern section, which comprises the country around Carbondale and Ione, raises thousands of head of cattle for beef and dairy purposes. Some sheep and many hogs are also grown. Dairying and poultry raising are extensively carried on.

## OLETA DISTRICT MAKING MUCH PROGRESS



OLETA, a pioneer town in the northeastern part of the county that first won fame because of its rich mines, and which was in early times named Fiddletown because so many of its inhabitants played the violin, is situated on a level plat of land

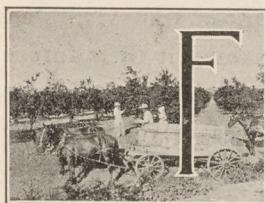
skirting Dry Creek.

Mining is no longer the principal industry of the community. More attention is now being paid to the depth and fertility of the soil than to its mineral wealth. Fruit of almost every kind grows and thrives there. Vineyards surrounding the little town produce

the finest kind of wine and table grapes. Water is abundant for gardening either from running springs, or by sinking wells to a depth of from twenty to fifty feet. All kinds of vegetables thrive in the surrounding country. As yet the agricultural and horticultural industries are only in their infancy. Time will develop the agricultural worth of the country.

Land is very cheap in comparison to the prices asked in other parts of the State, and the time is here when husbandmen are beginning to build the country up in a permanent way. No part of the foothills offers better inducements than does Oleta for immigrants to come and purchase land and build comfortable homes.

## GOOD PROFITS IN FOOTHILL FRUITS



OR the past thirty-four years James Oneto has devoted his time and energies to a 600-acre ranch in the foothills five miles above Sutter Creek. 100 acres are in fruits, nuts and vegetables, while most of the land is heavily timbered.

There is an abundance of water for irrigation.

On the ranch are 200 young olive trees and last year the owner secured 100 gallons of fine oil. He had made his own grinder and vat from marble of good quality that is found on the ranch in large quantities.

are 600 trees that yield at the rate of from \$400 to \$600 an acre, according to the season. There are 1½ acres of logan, black and raspberries that yield from \$300 to \$500 per acre, and about 400 muscat grape vines of full bearing age. There are small orange and lemon groves that produce good quantities of fine fruit, and they do not require protection from frost. Tomatoes are grown in quantities, the yield being five tons to the acre. Three acres sown broadcast to beans gave five tons last season. All vegetables grow luxuriantly. There are 30 acres of grain land. The irrigated alfalfa tract produces six fine crops a year.

George Woolsey, the pioneer fruit grower of the



Amador County Apples are the Choice of Connoisseurs

4,000 gallons of wine was made last season from the 40 acres of grapes, and it finds a ready market. Fifty chestnut trees and the grove of walnut trees are highly profitable. Fine crops of the choicest apples, peaches, pears, cherries, figs, prunes, oranges and lemons are grown annually at a fine profit.

Clay for making brick exists in quantities on the ranch.

The Mocking Bird ranch is near the line of the Amador Central Railroad between Ione and Martell. There are 4 acres in fruit trees and berries. There

county, who owns what was formerly known as the "Q Ranch", just east of Ione, has 125 acres of bearing trees including all kinds of deciduous and citrus fruits, almonds and walnuts. The soil is a rich black loam, and water in large quantities can be found anywhere at a depth of ten feet. He ships large quantities of fresh fruit to the Eastern markets, New York City being his principal market. He has a complete drying plant. The orchards yield an average net annual return of over \$100 per acre.

### WEALTH IN THE FORESTS

The Amador County demand for forest products is large and is growing daily. A great part of this demand is met by imports. Yet there are in the easterly stretches of the county miles upon miles of magnificent standing timber lands. The attention of moneyed

interests has been called to this condition, and it is hoped that before long steps will be taken to not only manufacture here the wood products consumed in the county, but that there will be shipped annually to the outside world millions of feet of lumber, thousands of cords of oak and madrone wood, and laths, shingles, boxes and the like.

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## ANNOUNCEMENT

This edition of The Great West Magazine is published under the direction of the Amador County Board of Supervisors and the County Chamber of Commerce. The various articles were compiled under the supervision of W. H. Greenhalgh, County Superintendent of Schools, assisted by various teachers and principals of the public schools of the county. The plan of procedure is in line with a recommendation made by the last annual institute of the teachers and was approved by the County Board of Education which proposes to place the edition in the public schools of the county where the pupils will be instructed with its aid as to the advantages and possibilities of their county and thus have their spirit of local pride accentuated.

## The Profitable Little Foothill Farm

Amador County, famous since early times for the richness and extent of its quartz mines, is now adding new laurels and wealth to its possessions through the development of its agricultural and horticultural resources which have laid latent for so many years. It has been demonstrated there that the owner of a farm of one hundred acres or less of the rolling foothill lands of the county can by intelligent and industrious efforts secure as good a profit as can be realized anywhere in the State from an equal amount of land.

No part of the Golden State offers more or better opportunities in a like area for the man or woman who knows how to work and is not afraid to put that knowledge to use, to achieve a competency and enjoy an ideal existence among the most favorable conditions, than does Amador County.

## Helping Hand For Homeseekers

Ample provisions have been made by the Amador County Chamber of Commerce for furnishing every possible assistance and help to those who visit that county with a view of perhaps making it their future home. The stranger arriving there is by no means without friends, and while the faces may be strange and the conditions different from those left behind, there is extended a typical mountain welcome that cannot help but inspire confidence and satisfaction.

In seeking the new settler the people of the county fully realize that one of the most important things they may do is to provide means by which the homeseeker will be protected from making unsatisfactory investments. They desire each newcomer to settle down among them and become a permanent resident of the community and enjoy with them the wonderful advantages which that section offers. They wish to see every family do well and prosper. To these ends they are always ready and willing to lend a helping hand and to assist in every way.

The high fertility of the soil in Amador County's foothills and its suitableness to both general farming and fruit growing, the genial climate and its healthfulness, the good local market and the transportation facilities to the outside markets, the railroads and telegraph and telephones that knit the people together and keep them in close touch with the rest of the world, the good schools, and last but not least, the low price for which land can be bought—does any other part of the State offer a better opportunity to get a home and achieve independence?

The beauty and quality of Amador County fruits are proverbial. The three great advantages of the climate there—abundant heat, continuous sunshine in summer and dry air—taken in connection with the fitness of the soil and the great length of the growing season, insure the characteristic excellence of the fruit and the early maturity, great growth and abundant fruitage of the trees and vines. Heat, sunshine, dry air and a rainless summer also minister directly to the curing of fruits in the open air.

All that a man needs to get a start in Amador County is sufficient money to buy a few acres of land, and the rest will come easy, provided only that he is not afraid of work and has average judgment for the direction of his affairs. That which the county needs most is earnest-minded men and women, with a little capital, who will come with a strongly defined desire to succeed and who are anxious to use their brain and brawn to that end.

## FROM NEAR SEA LEVEL TO ETERNAL SNOW



OU can get most any kind of climate you want at any time of the year if you will search for it in Amador County. Ione, in the edge of the foothills, is 270 feet above sea level, and there all kinds of fruits including the orange and olive, as well as farming products in general, thrive amazingly.

Jackson, the county seat, has an altitude of 1,300 feet, and there are no soil products grown in the State that will not do well in the genial clime of its vicinity.

At Volcano, 2,162 feet above the sea, all the deciduous fruits are profitable to the grower, and wild plums and wild berries begin to make their appearance.

Pine Grove's altitude is 2,675 feet and apples in the few orchards thereabout reach perfection, while peaches have an unusually fine flavor. Sometimes a foot or so of snow falls and remains on the ground for a few days.

Lockwood's Station has an altitude of 3,100 feet. The early varieties of peaches are a sure crop. Apples and potatoes from there are always prize winners. There are wild fruits and chinquepins (dwarf chest-



An Ione Valley Avenue

nuts) in abundance. Snow falls frequently and deep during the winter months.

The altitude of Antelope Springs is 4,250 feet, yet a success is made there of potato growing, and some of the hardier fruits are found; but there is no attempt at higher points to engage in fruit culture.

Cook's Station is up at the 5,000 foot point. Here is found the best pine, but the oak becomes insignificant.

Ham's Station is 5,245 feet above the sea and Mud Springs is 5,975 feet.

Silver Lake is at an elevation of 6,422 feet. The tamarack begins to take the place of the pine and from eight to twenty feet of snow falls.

Kirkwood's is about the highest habitable point,



The County Has Much Fine Timber  
Caples Lake At 9,000 Feet Elevation

having an altitude of 8,300 feet. Jack Frost and the Snow King rule here.

Comparatively little farming is attempted at points above Lockwood's, but apples, cherries, nectarines, berries, and walnuts are at their best several hundred feet above there.

Above the 7,000 foot level timber is found only in the sheltered depressions, and the winter that does not bring from ten to thirty feet of snow, or even more, is considered mild.

### TO SUBDIVIDE GRANT

The Arroyo Seco grant consists of some 32,000 acres tributary to Ione and has been owned by the Pacific Improvement Company for nearly forty years. This old Mexican grant is most fertile and well watered and is also rich in mineral wealth. At this time it is largely used for grazing purposes. Plans are afoot for subdividing it and placing it on the market at an early date, and when this is done the producing capacity and prosperity of that part of the county will be greatly enhanced.

### AMADOR COUNTY MARBLE

There are several marble quarries within from half a mile to three miles of the town of Volcano, and experts say that their product is the best yet developed on the Pacific Coast. Three varieties are found, white, black and clouded, and the durability of each has been demonstrated by many years of use in cemeteries and buildings. While considerable quantities have been shipped from year to year, the lack of cheap transportation facilities has been a drawback to the work of development; but the building of the Amador Central Railroad from Ione to Martell, and the plans to soon extend it to the east timber belt and pass near the town of Volcano, twelve miles beyond, will permit of the loading of cars at the quarries and make the marble industry one of the large sources of Amador County's prosperity and growth.

## AMADOR CITY HAS MANY VALUABLE ASSETS



MADOR CITY, with a population of 1,000, lies along Amador Creek six miles northwest of the county seat at an altitude of 900 feet. It has a stage connecting with the Amador Central railroad. It is the center of a large and rich quartz mining district, its mines being described in another article. It has modern homes surrounded by well kept grounds, good hotel and boarding houses, two public halls, numerous business houses, two churches, a fine school with three departments and 125 pupils, and possessing a splendid library of 1,000 volumes, various fraternal and social organizations, and is a progressive, thriving community.

Through the efforts and hearty co-operation of the pupils and teachers during the last two years, the school ground has been greatly improved and equipped so that it is a real social center for the old as well as the young. It is equipped with a dozen swinging rings, a circle swing, three teeter boards, six swings, two sets of basket ball goals and a ring toss game. The building was wired during the holidays and a Literary and Debating Club to which the school contributes largely, was organized to meet evenings twice a month.

Agriculturally, Amador City is surrounded by a good average clay soil. The general pastoral pursuits are farming, stock raising, fruit growing, wine making, and vegetable culture. Farming is confined principally to the growing of hay and grain, barley and wheat. Cattle, horses, mules and hogs are chiefly the stockman's care. The comparatively low altitude and mild climate enable the animals to maintain themselves the entire year without shelter.

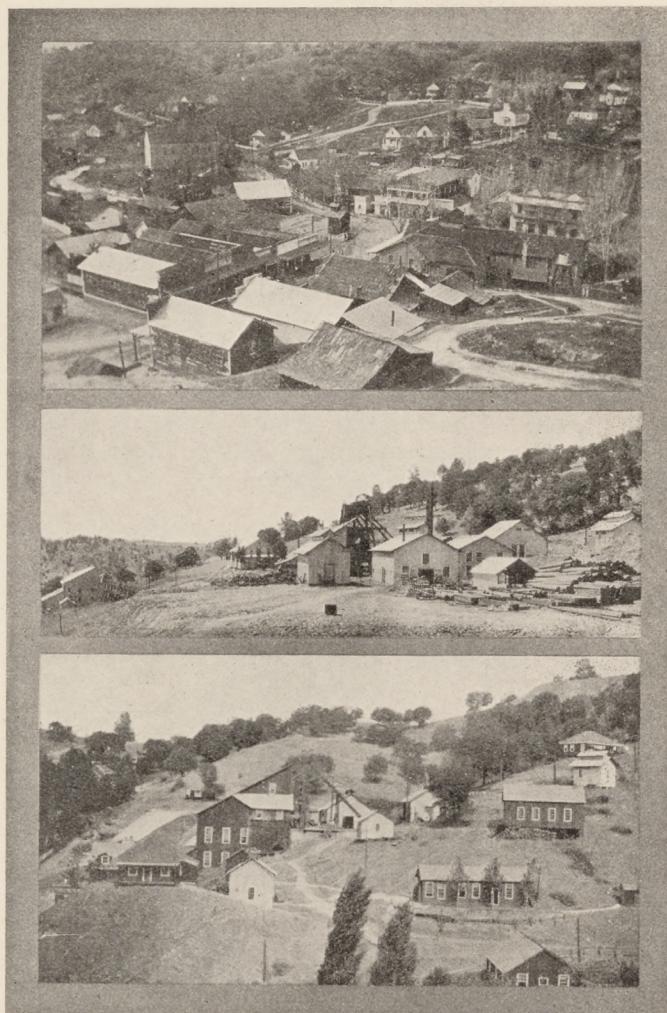
Among the fruits that flourish in this vicinity are apples, peaches, plums, pears, apricots, cherries, nectarines, prunes, pomegranates, olives, figs, oranges, grapes, and all small berries, such as the strawberry, raspberry, blackberry, currant, gooseberry, etc. The following nut trees are cultivated with a good degree of success: Almond, pecan, chestnut, English and black walnut.

Wine making is principally conducted by the Italian and Austrian population for home consumption. With irrigation all kinds of vegetables are grown in abundance. The market for the agricultural products is principally found among the mining population.

Rich in mineral resources, rich in agricultural possibilities, having a climate excelled by none and possessed by few, there awaits for the oncoming generation opportunities which time alone can solve, and for Amador City a long and prosperous career.

### MEANING OF "AMADOR"

The meaning of the word Amador (Spanish) is "Lover of inanimate objects." The county probably derived its name from either Sergeant Pedro Amador or from Jose Maria Amador, his son. Sergeant Pedro Amador was one of the prominent settlers of California. He was an adventurer and a soldier of the Spanish army, coming to California in 1771, and after serving in San Diego and Santa Barbara was transferred to San Francisco and died in San Jose, April 10, 1824, at the age of 82 years. His son, Jose Maria,



Birdseye View of Amador City  
Bunker Hill Mine at Plymouth  
Original Amador Mine at Amador

was born in San Francisco on December 18, 1794, and was also a soldier and a renowned Indian fighter. He obtained a large grant from the Mexican government, and after the discovery of gold forsook pastoral pursuits and went to the Southern mines where he greatly increased his fortune. He died during the eighties.

### THE COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Amador County has a Chamber of Commerce, with its headquarters at Jackson, the county seat, which works in conjunction with the Board of County Supervisors in acquainting the outside world with the superior advantages offered by the county as a place of residence and investment. Its membership embraces many of the leading miners, farmers, fruit growers, business and professional men and other citizens who are familiar with the exceptionally rich and varied resources of the county, and are willing to give their time and efforts to exploiting them abroad for the welfare of all concerned. The executive committee of the Chamber of Commerce consists of the following residents of Jackson: G. E. Vela, chairman; C. M. Kelly, secretary; P. L. Cassinelli, E. H. Harrington, A. Ginnochio, Frank Valvo and Charles L. Tam.

## PRESTON SCHOOL OF INDUSTRY



THE Preston School of Industry for boys, a State institution which in points of equipment and efficiency ranks with the foremost of its character in the country, is located immediately north of the town of Ione. The numerous, large and attractive brick buildings are surrounded by 569 acres of fertile rolling foothill land. The school unites with its work of reformation a practical business education

smithing, woodworking, photographing, printing, shoemaking, tailoring, painting, and other industrial branches. The school also has a hospital, a chapel, a gymnasium, a library of 2,000 volumes, a postoffice, baseball clubs, a brass band, a recreation ground, and numerous other features that tend to the completeness of such an institution. Considerable attention is paid to military training, the 400 boys being divided into six companies for drill and discipline. Now the meth-



Preston School of Industry, Near Ione

and a thorough training in many industrial branches, and utilizes as far as possible the labor of the lads in the construction and improvement work, as well as in all the other departments. Besides the school of letters, which has day and evening sessions and is conducted along the same lines as the public schools of the State, there are various departments, including farming, dairying, horticulture, gardening, butchering, building, masonry, engineering, laundrying, black-

ods of military self-government are being introduced and the cadets are taking with enthusiasm and splendid results to the idea of conducting their court martials and other proceedings with dignity, fairness and dispatch. The State employs at the school, including officials, instructors, guards and the like, number seventy-five, there being a number of women among them. The school is costing the State something like \$165,000 a year for maintenance and improvement.

## SHENANDOAH VALLEY



RESIDENTS of Shenandoah Valley justly claim that their region stands among the foremost foothill sections, not only for its water and climate, but also for its grain and fruit. Some of the best seed grain in California is produced in that valley. About thirty thousand sacks of barley and oats are raised there every year. This is

an average of over fifteen sacks to an acre. In addition to the grain, a great deal of hay is raised also.

Fruit raising is another profitable industry of the valley. The money obtained from the fruit crop alone amounts to many thousand dollars annually. The main kinds of fruit raised are apples, prunes, peaches and grapes. The peaches and grapes cannot be surpassed in flavor anywhere in the State.

The profitable industries with the pure air, and above all the good water of Shenandoah Valley, make it an ideal place for a home.

## FRUIT LANDS IN AMADOR COUNTY



HE East Fruit Belt of Amador County begins five or six miles east of Jackson at an elevation of about 1,500 feet and extends away up into the Sierras to an elevation of about 4,000 feet.

Although the fruit industry in this belt is practically undeveloped, yet there are enough small orchards scattered all over it to prove that it produces apples and other deciduous fruits of unsurpassed quality and flavor.

Most of these apple orchards are old, having been planted by the early settlers. They are almost wholly neglected by the younger generation who are more interested in mining, stock raising and lumbering than in the growing of fruits. Many of these orchards, forty or fifty years old, have not been plowed or pruned for so long that no one remembers just when they were given any care, yet they still produce abundant crops of apples of the finest flavor and keeping qualities.

The soil is largely of three distinct kinds, decomposed granite, slates and lavas, all strongly impregnated with iron. According to the Geologic Atlas of the U. S. Department of the Interior, "The red soils from the schists of the eastern area of the Calaveras formation in Amador County make fine fruit lands."

This section is not excelled anywhere in the State for the color, flavor, sweetness, firmness and keeping qualities of all kinds of deciduous fruits, grapes and berries. This excellence is produced by the abundance of certain minerals in the soil, especially iron, and by the bright sunshine and pure mountain air.

There are in that region thousands of acres of cut-over timber land better adapted to fruit growing than to any other industry. Much of this land is covered or partly covered with brush and scattering growth of pines, oaks, cedars, etc. It is very readily cleared, as practically all the stumps have rotted out, and it may be bought as low as \$10 per acre. Often one can buy land partly cleared, with improvements, at even a lower price than this.

The demand for this foothill and mountain grown fruit among the mining towns of the Mother Lode far exceeds the supply. Good winter apples sell at 2 to 3 cents a pound, peaches 2 cents, grapes from \$20 to \$30 per ton, strawberries from 75 cents to \$1 per gallon.

There is no better opportunity in the State today for the man of modest means to secure a few acres and to lay the foundation of an independence, and likely of a fortune, than is offered now in this East Belt of Amador County.

## BLOODED LIVESTOCK PROFITABLE



EVERAL of the leading dairymen and other livestock growers of Amador County are fast awakening to a realization of the fact that thoroughbred cattle, horses, sheep and hogs cost no more for maintenance than does mongrel stock, and that they are vastly

more profitable so far as productiveness and efficiency are concerned. With this idea growing there is a steadily increasing ambition to possess animals of known pedigree and demonstrated adaptability, and many of them are grading up their herds and bands to a high standard. There are several recent accessions of value to the dairy herds, among the latest being some valuable Holstein-Fresians just secured by the Frakes dairy at Sutter Creek.



Some Holstein Fresians at the Frakes Dairy, Sutter Creek.

### AMADOR COUNTY DIAMONDS

At a number of localities in the county, notably at Volcano and Oleta, diamonds have been found by the gravel miners. Some of the gems have been of good size and fair quality, and they occur in sufficient quantities to make the search for them remunerative if the gravel accompanying them were more easily worked. Some of them were sold for from fifty to sixty dollars, although experts have pronounced them worth much more than the prices they brought.

### EXPERIMENTAL STATION

Some years ago the University of California conducted for many seasons an agricultural experiment station at a point five miles northeast of Jackson. Here fruit trees and grape vines were grown on red and granite soils and without irrigation with splendid results, and the adaptability of Amador County to the successful culture of fruit on a commercial scale was firmly established in an official way.

## IONE, THE GARDEN CITY

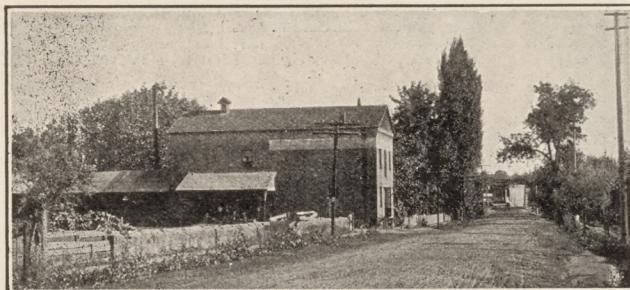


IONE, with a population of 900 inside its limits, is in the western central portion of Amador county. It is the trading social center of the lower foothill region known as Ione Valley which is dotted with orchards, vineyards, grain fields, stock farms and dairies, and possesses many valuable mineral deposits of a varied character. It is the easterly terminus of the Southern Pacific's Amador county branch and the westerly terminus of the Amador Central Railroad, the latter leading to Martell and giving



Main Street, Ione

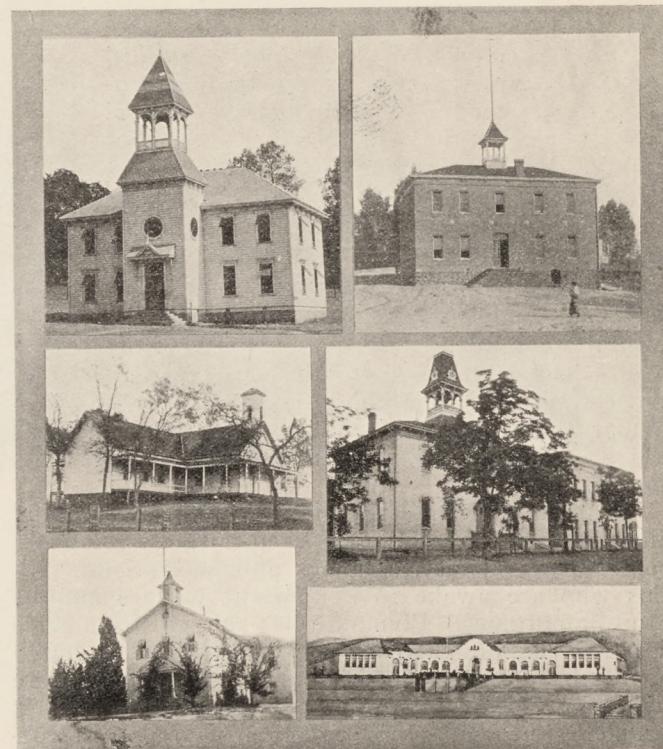
stage connections to all parts of the county. The Preston School of Industry, a large State institution, is just north of the town, a quarter of a mile distant. In the valley are twenty dairy farms each milking from 20 to 150 cows, and many smaller ones. Some twenty of these comprising an association ship to Sacramento, while the independent dairymen deal with the large creamery at Ione. All the grains, fruits and vegetables grown anywhere in California thrive in the deep alluvial soil and equable climate with which this region is blessed, and crop failures are unknown. Ditch systems traverse the country and an abundance of free water for irrigation and domestic purposes can be secured at practically all points by sinking wells from six to twenty feet and tapping the gravel strata that underlies the soil. The enormous crops produced during the last sixty years in this and other parts of the county, often without irrigation or fertilization, are always a surprise to the newcomer and a source of great profit to the settler.



A Creamery at Ione

### SHOULD PROCEED INTELLIGENTLY

The prospective purchaser of lands in Amador County or anywhere else should determine in advance, from the teachings of his own experience or with the



Ione Union High  
Plymouth Grammar  
Sutter Creek Grammar

Ione Grammar  
Jackson Grammar  
Jackson's New U. H.

Tributary to the town are extensive deposits of fire clay and fire sand which are largely used locally in the manufacture of fire brick and in shipment to other markets. Two copper claims are operating within three miles of the town. Much red sandstone of a fine quality is quarried here. A seemingly inexhaustible vein of lignite coal runs directly across the valley at a depth of from sixty to seventy feet and is actively mined at Carbondale and Buena Vista at times. Valuable deposits of gold bearing quartz and gravel are also being worked in various localities. While mining is not the dominant industry of this section it gives employment to many men and their presence adds to the general prosperity that prevails.

Ione has high and grammar schools employing seven teachers; Methodist, Free Methodist, Catholic and Presbyterian Churches, many fraternal and social organizations, a women's improvement club, two large hotels, a theater, an agricultural pavilion where annual displays of the county's product were made during the fairs held in former years and which will again be put to similar use if the present plans for resuming the expositions are carried out, as they promise to be, a flouring mill, a bank, two lodge halls, numerous mercantile establishments representing the various branches of trade. There is a newsy local newspaper, the Ione Valley Echo, published weekly.

There are scores of attractive and well kept homes in Ione and the people are happy and prosperous.

assistance of some reliable expert, as to the location and the character of the land fitted for the crops he desires to grow. Careful inspection of the land should be the first step taken by the man who seeks to make an investment.

## PLYMOUTH'S MANY RESOURCES

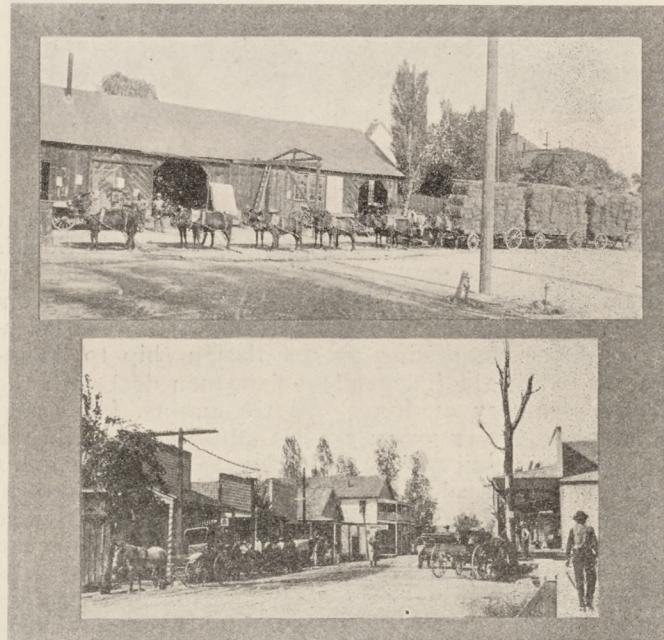
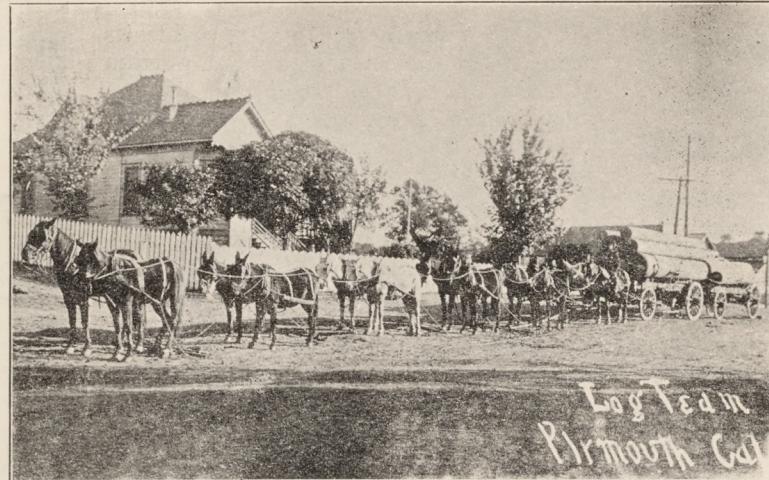


WHILE Plymouth was once principally known for its rich quartz mines, it has now attained prominence as the trading center for the principal agricultural districts of Northern Amador County. Within a radius of ten miles almost every variety of grain and all the fruits of the temperate zone are produced in large quantities. The yield and quality of these various crops would be hard to beat even in California. Oats and barley are the principal agricultural crops in the immediate vicinity of the town, yielding 15 sacks to the acre even in fair seasons. There are no crop failures there to mar the record. Much attention is also paid to the raising of blooded stock and poultry.

The town is charmingly situated among the rolling hills. It has numerous good-sized business establishments, many attractive homes and enterprising citizens who are awake to its present welfare and its future importance. Plymouth has suffered from some disastrous fires in the past, and its citizens in rebuilding the business district have guarded against future trouble of the kind by the erection of fireproof structures. Plans are now afoot to improve and modernize the town in various ways, the promoters of this good work having announced their intention of converting it into one of the most attractive villages of mines operating quite extensively in the immediate neighborhood, and they do much toward adding to its prosperity. There are good schools, churches, and considerable social activity.



A Plymouth Home



Some Hay at Plymouth  
A Plymouth Street Scene

### FERTILE SPRING VALLEY

In Spring Valley, two miles from Plymouth, 125 tons of hay and over 600 sacks of grain were raised last season. With care plums and cherries do well in the valley.

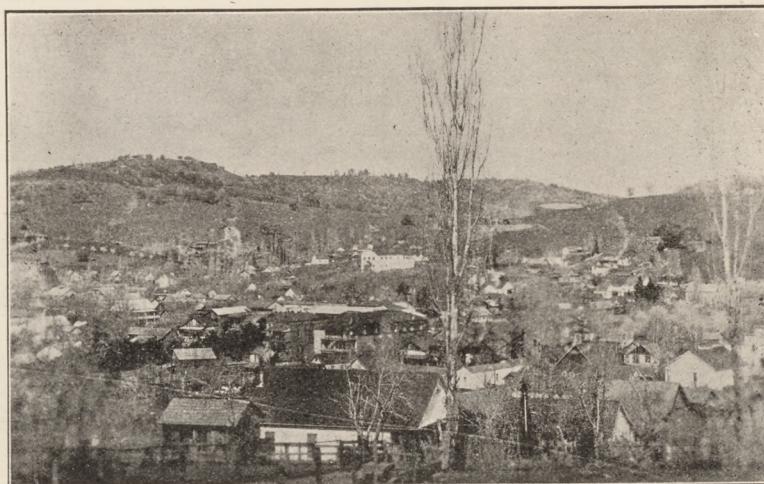
### FRUIT GROWING AROUND DRYTOWN

Drytown, in central western Amador County, was in early times one of the booming mining towns of the Mother Lode region, and was famous for its rich gravel claims. And its remaining population is still largely engaged in the search for gold. But a new era appears close at hand for that district. The climate is semi-tropical and the soil is deep and wonderfully fertile. Fruit and grain and garden products thrive amazingly and there is a great local demand for the output of the neighboring ranches.

## SUTTER CREEK'S MANY CHARMs



HE historic and beautiful little city of Sutter Creek takes its name from the limpid stream which sparkles through it. It is 1200 feet above the sea and 150 miles from it. Thus situated in the foothills midway between the excessive heat of the San Joaquin Valley and the rigorous cold of the upper Sierras it has that mild, equable climate which one commonly associates with the Garden of Eden. This makes it especially desirable as a place for homes. And it is essentially a town of homes, as many owning ranches in the mountains spend their winters here, while some who work in San Francisco here have their summer residences. It is accessible to the large centers of population of California—two hours by automobile



Birdseye View of Sutter Creek

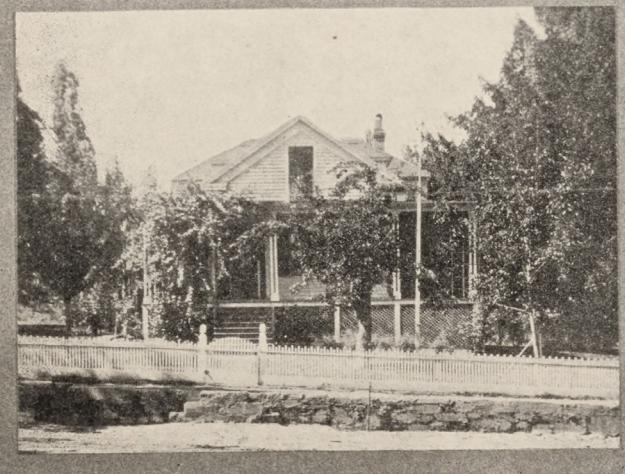
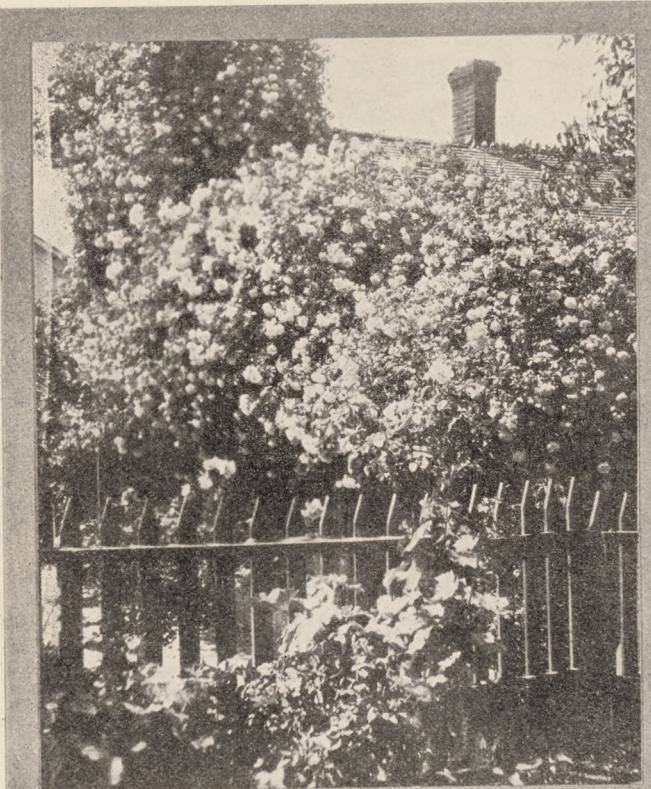
from Sacramento, the capital of the State, and seven hours over the Amador Central and Southern Pacific railroads from San Francisco. It will be brought still nearer to the Capitol on the completion of the electric road recently surveyed to pass through the town. The population inside the incorporated limits numbers 2000, but twice that number do their trading in the city.

Many families are attracted to Sutter Creek by its educational and social advantages. The grammar school under an efficient corps of eight teachers has led the schools of the county in scholarship for the past three years. The school has two special teachers, one for drawing and one for music. Here is located the county high school where is offered to graduates of the elementary schools preparation for the profession of teaching, for a business career, or for entrance to any of the normal schools and universities of the land. All the more prominent fraternal orders have lodges here, some of them owning the buildings in which they meet. Three churches provide for the spiritual needs of the community and one theatre provides an evening's amusement four times a week. The Amador Record is the bright weekly newspaper of the community. Of the clubs and associations the Women's Improvement Club is the most prominent.

The one steam laundry of the county is situated in Sutter Creek as also is the one planing mill and lumber yard. There is a local foundry. The chief industry of the town, however, is mining, but adjacent to it is a large acreage of tillable land eminently fit for fruits and agricultural products. Only a small portion of this land is under cultivation. Many tracts can be bought at reasonable prices. Three deep gold mines from which have been taken several million dollars are located inside the incorporated limits and twice that number of paying mines are within a radius of two miles. Here many fortunes have been won and lost.

### WILD FRUITS

The wild fruits which grow in Amador County are elderberries, plums, gooseberries, thimbleberries, strawberries, currants, blackberries and raspberries.



Sutter Creek Homes  
Framed In Roses

## LEADS ALL CALIFORNIA IN MINING

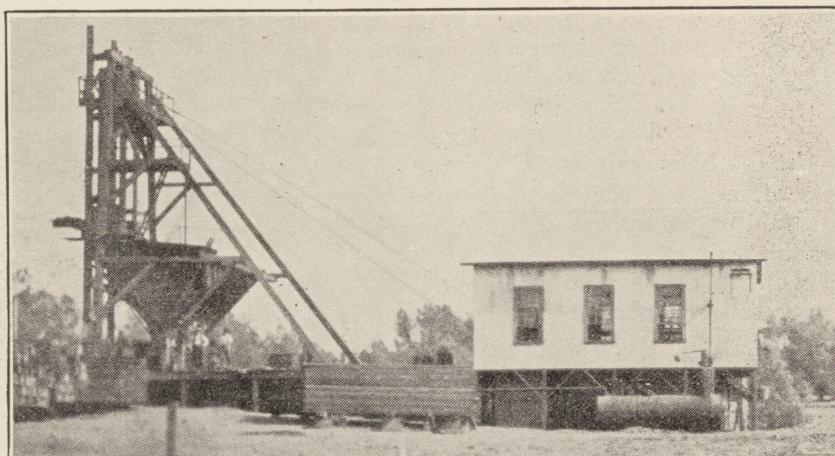
HERE are more mines in operation in Amador County at the present time than ever before, among them being the following: Hardenburgh, South Jackson, Zeile, Argonaut, Kennedy, Kennedy Extension, Oneida, South Eureka, Lincoln Consolidated, Keystone, Original Amador, Bunker Hill, Fremont Gover, Memphil, Alpine and Empire-Pacific. Of these mines, seven are dividend payers, or near it, while the others are being opened up; some are new prospects, and others are old mines being reopened.

There are employed in these mines about 1600 men and with the average wages at \$3 per day—it will probably run higher—there is \$4800 per day paid out in wages, or for a month of thirty days \$114,000.

There are in the county about 25 quartz mills in active operation. They aggregate over 650 stamps.

Amador is the most productive quartz mining county in California, heading the other counties with an output of \$2,832,395 for 1911. While its mineralized district is smaller than that of any other mining county, more than one-sixth of the gold taken from California mines has been contributed by Amador.

While gold bearing quartz is to be found in nearly all parts of the county, the larger properties are on the Mother Lode, from the Cosumnes River south to the Mokelumne River, a distance of 24 miles. Along this strip are most of the leading towns and the bulk of the county's population.



Hoist of South Eureka Mine

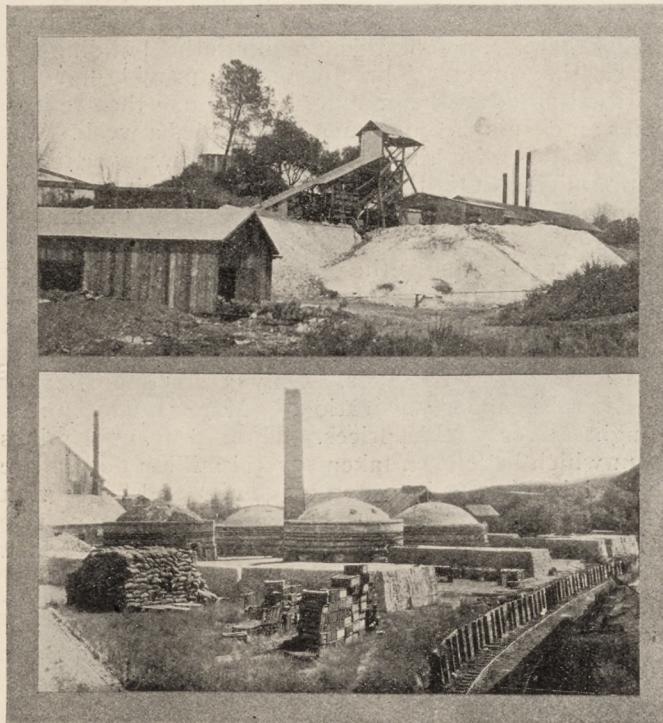
A prevalent idea among the uninitiated is that a rich mining region like this must have a barren, rocky soil where vegetation cannot thrive and there is a civilization of indifferent type. But it is not so in Amador County. Fertile rolling hills and valleys clad with luxuriant vegetation meet the eye in all directions. Thrifty vineyards, orchards and farms adorn the surface, while beneath busy miners burrow in their search for the royal metal.

One of the consistent dividend-paying mines of the Mother Lode is the Fremont Consolidated, situated near Amador City and Drytown. It operates forty stamps. The property disbursed the regular monthly dividend of \$4,000, January 28th, making a total of \$174,000 to date. Of this amount, \$48,000 was distributed in 1912. The rate is 2 cents per share, consequently each stockholder is receiving 24 cents per share per year. The mine has been opened to a depth of 2,200 feet, and a new station has been cut at the 2,150 level. From this point drifting is under way to intersect the big vein.

The Kennedy Mining Company has attained an approximate depth of 3,780 feet vertical with its big shaft a mile northeast of Jackson, and is easily maintaining its position as the premier quartz producer of California. The 100-stamp mill is handling about 15,000 tons of ore per month, and the gross value of the annual production is around \$1,000,000. Besides being the largest quartz producer in California, the Kennedy enjoys the distinction of being the deepest gold property on the North American continent. As it is believed the great footwall vein will be intersected at an approximate depth of 4,400 vertical feet, it is certain that the shaft will be eventually carried to this vast depth. 350 men are employed in the mine and plant of the company and regular dividends are distributed.

The new twenty-stamp mill at the Hardenburgh, south of Jackson, is crushing about 100 tons of good ore per day. The monthly clean-ups yield a handsome profit. This property, long idle, has been reopened and equipped by people interested in the South Eureka Mine.

The Argonaut has been running on a paying basis for more than eighteen years. Its shaft is down 3,900 feet on the incline, making it the second deepest gold mine in the United States. The 40-stamp mill has a



Copper Mine at the Edge of Lone  
Brick Kiln In Lone Valley

capacity of 200 tons of ore daily. The present annual production rate is \$400,000, and the total yield to date is \$2,000,000. The company owns 2500 feet on the Mother Lode, or over 300 acres, and but half of the holding has been prospected. 175 men are employed.

The Kennedy Extension has a thousand-foot incline shaft and 5000 feet of other ground opened up. Twelve men are employed in doing development and prospecting work. The ore runs from \$5 to \$8 per ton and the concentrates about \$240. The property is in litigation with the Argonaut.

The South Eureka in Sutter Creek district, having an eighty-stamp mill, has a shaft down to the 2730 level and a winze has developed good ore 200 feet deeper. There is also good ore on other levels. From March 1, 1909, to January 1, 1913, the mine produced 402,865 tons of ore yielding \$1,913,444.22, or nearly \$4.75 per ton. Previous to 1909 the mine had been operated with varying success, producing largely at times.

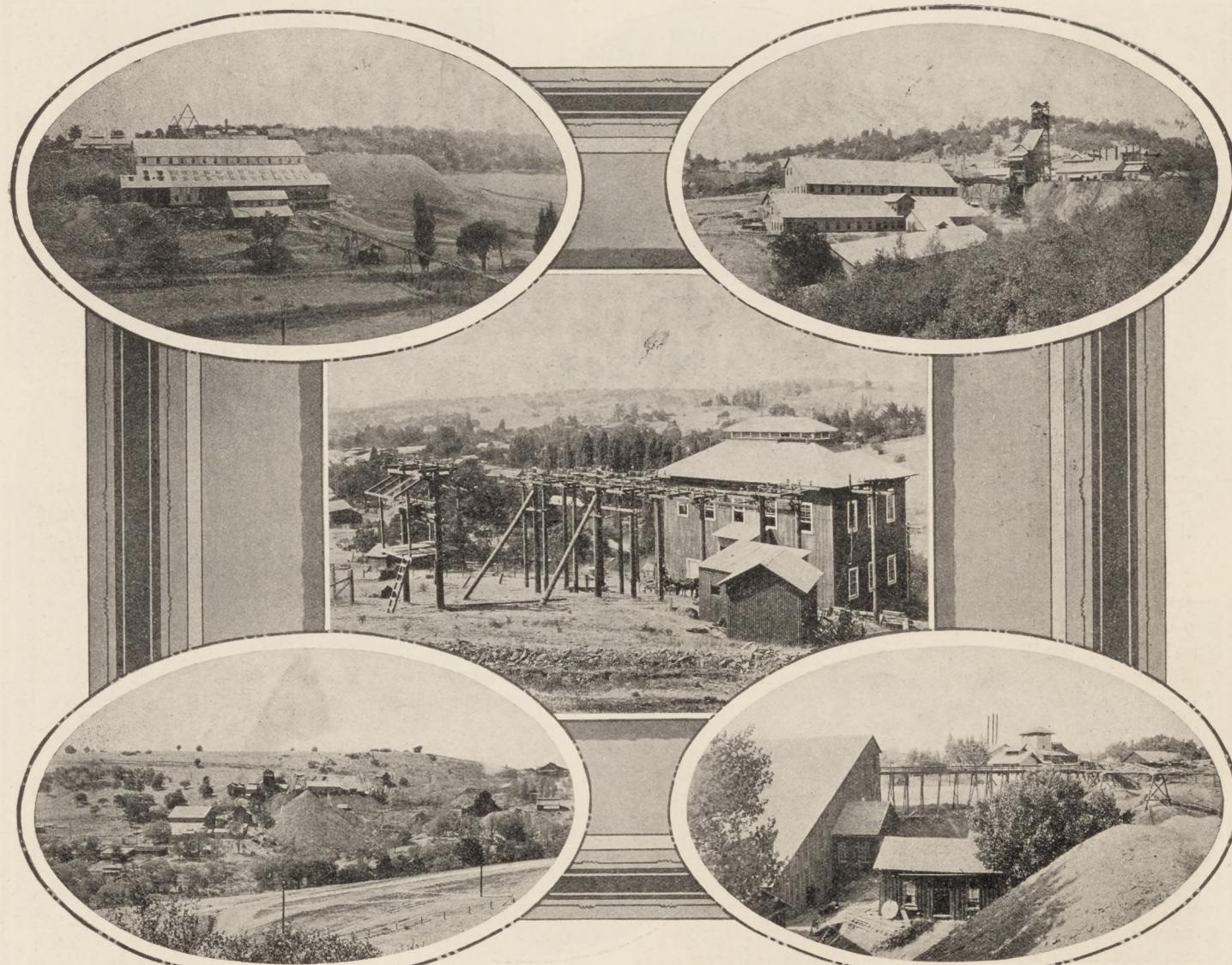
At the Keystone at Amador City, which has produced \$16,000,000, the three compartment shaft is being sunk an additional thousand feet, to give a depth of about 2600 feet. Electric power has been installed. The mill has 60 stamps. In full operation the mine will employ 175 men.

The Original Amador, having a twenty-stamp mill and employing 35 men, is treating 100 tons of ore a day and paying dividends. Lack of cheap power has so far been the chief drawback there.

A deed was recorded about the first of this year transferring the Moore mine and other properties of the late W. A. Nevills to the Central Land and Trust Company for the sum of \$155,000. This well-known mine is at Scottsville, about a mile and a half south of Jackson. Eighteen or twenty years ago rich ore was taken out, but since that time work has been abandoned, the machinery removed and even the old mill and other buildings have disappeared. The Moore mine is but a short distance from the South Amador, and if it is to be reopened, as is expected, then the chain of operating mines is complete down to the Hardenburg at Middle Bar.

The Empire-Pacific mines in Plymouth were bonded by a strong English company and work commenced there about the close of 1911. The property had been idle for over twenty year prior to that time, although operations had been remarkably successful. The present operators have equipped the mine with a substantial, up-to-date plant, unwatered and repaired the shaft and some of the main levels and now have over thirty men engaged in prospect work.

(Continued on page 24)



Upper left—South Eureka mine near Sutter Creek, employing 175 men and operating 80 stamps. Upper right—The Kennedy near Jackson, one of the largest mines in California, as well as the deepest in America, employing 250 men and operating 100 stamps. Center—Electric sub-station at Sutter Creek which cares for the mining and lighting load of that district. Lower left—Argonaut mine near Jackson. Lower right—Zeille mine on the road from the County Seat to Electra.

## FRUIT GROWING IN IONE VALLEY

**A**MONG the varied interests of the country which includes Ione, Jackson Valley, Lansha Plana, Buena Vista and the Julian district probably none offers greater promise for the future than that of horticulture. Almost every fruit of the temperate and semi-tropic zones appears to do its best there and the various varieties are being shipped to Eastern markets with unqualified success.

Apples, the king of fruits, with all the different varieties, obtain an excellence of flavor and contrary to former belief are now proving profitable.

Peaches attain their finest color and are conceded unsurpassable for flavor and sweetness.

Plums of all kinds are grown there. The new Burbank varieties are featured locally and find a congenial home. They have been distributed throughout the Eastern markets with the best money results and highest commendation.

Prunes of all sorts, like the plums, do exceptionally well, especially the sugar, robe, imperial and tragedy.

In like good condition are the pears. Ranking first in importance is the Bartlett, which has little trouble

with the diseases prevalent in some other localities. Winter varieties also do exceptionally well.

So likewise with the other deciduous fruits, the nectarine, fig, quince and cherry.

Nut trees in the deep loam soils are a sure investment for the future. The native California black walnut grows easily in the rich bottoms, and the English varieties grafted on that stock make a quick-growing and hardy tree. Almonds also thrive remarkably well.

On the hills surrounding Ione Valley many places are eminently adapted to the culture of the orange and olive.

### PICTURE ROCK

Geologists say that the Volcano district is the best field in the west for the study of photographic or impression rock, as many fine specimens of it are found there. The delicate tracings often take on the appearance of beautiful landscapes, trees, ferns, flowers, mountains, and other of Nature's productions. Some of these specimens come in different colors, including pink, green, yellow and violet shades.



Upper left—Lone Norway weeping fir, foreign to that section and of unknown origin, standing near Tiger Creek saw mill. Upper center—Log hauling. Upper right—Donkey engine and cable used in drawing logs to rail line. Center—Yard containing 2,000,000 feet of lumber used in repairing flumes of electric company. Lower left—Tiger Creek sawmill and tramway. Lower center—Tiger Creek sawmill with capacity of 50,000 feet per day. Lower right—In the pine forest surrounding Tiger Creek sawmill.

## IN NORTHEASTERN AMADOR



ANDORA'S BOX had nothing on the northeastern portion of Amador county. It is a veritable treasure house for the grower of fruits and vegetables, as well as for the general farmer. Nearly every rancher there has an orchard and a garden. Recent experiments in walnut and olive culture have been most successful, and with frequent cultivation irrigation is not necessary to produce in a single season three healthy crops of sorghum, which is in great demand as fodder.

Here is a partial list of improved holdings and few instances of profitable soil culture in that part of the county, collated from the reports on the crops of 1912:

J. F. Bromfield, Shenandoah Valley—8 acres apricots, 20 tons; 8 acres peaches, 40 tons; 3 acres prunes, 6 tons; 1 acre apples, 2½ tons.

O. Ball, Shenandoah Valley—3 acres blackberries and raspberries, \$600; 2 acres table grapes, 5 tons; 8

acres peaches, 40 tons; 750 prune trees, 15 tons, dried.

T. Davis, Shenandoah Valley—6 fig trees, 8 tons; 10 acres peaches, 50 tons; 2 acres apricots; 15 acres wine grapes, over 90 tons.

Charles Smith, Shenandoah Valley—5 acres grapes (mostly table), 15 tons.

Andrew Bagara, Shenandoah Valley—6 acres wine grapes, 12 tons.

Amelia D. Agostina, Pigeon Creek, 17 acres wine grapes.

Robert Brown, Shenandoah Valley—8 acres peaches.

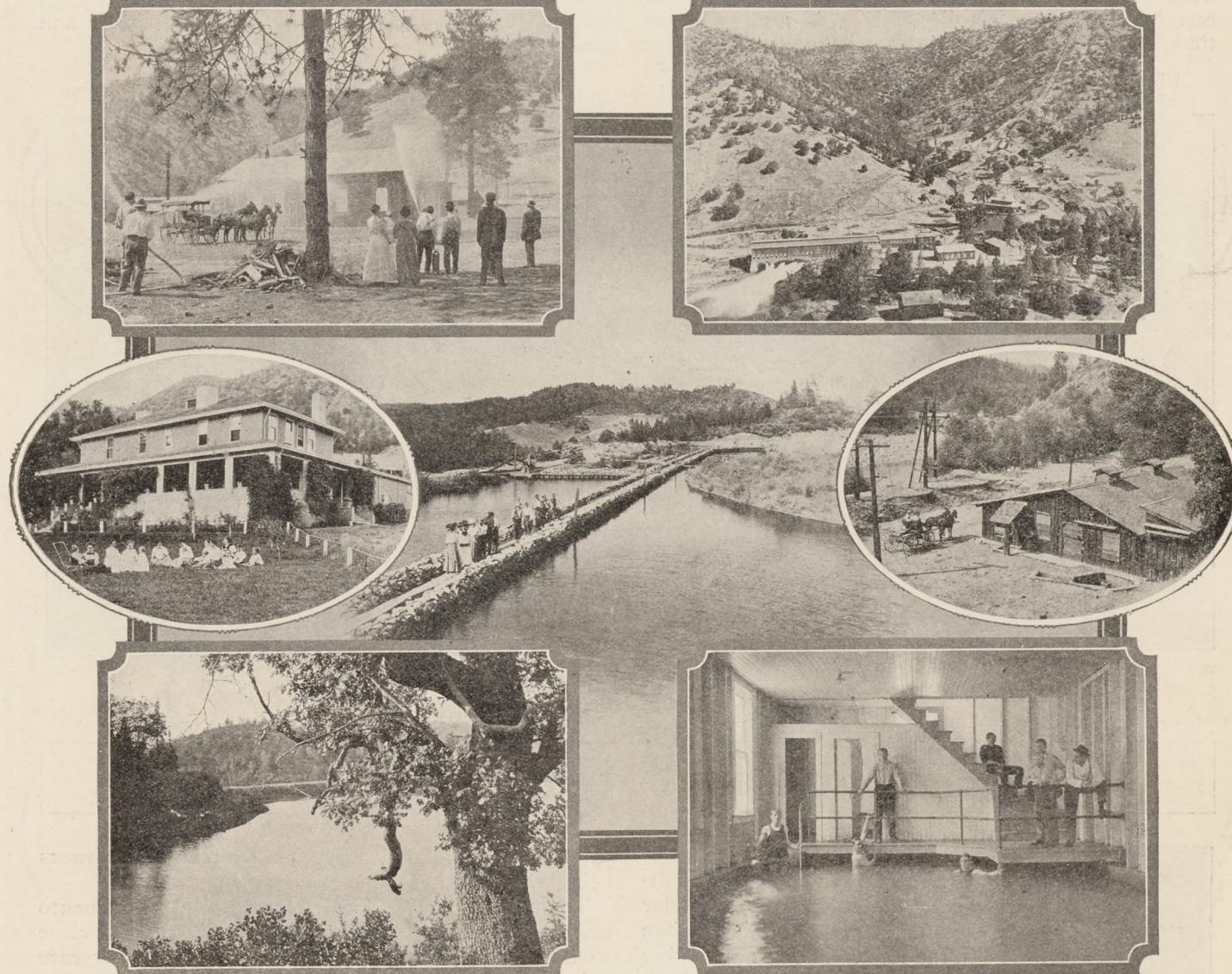
Louis Smith, Oleta—1-4 acre table grapes; 5 acres wine grapes; 2 acres garden truck.

Peter Glavich, Dry Creek, south of Oleta—3 acres wine grapes; 1 acre garden.

Michael Claich, south of Oleta—4 acres table grapes; 1-4 acre garden.

Nicholas Mavinovich, south of Oleta—7 acres wine grapes; 3 acres garden.

Martin Germolis, south of Oleta—6 acres garden; 2 acres wine grapes.



Upper left—Fire drill at Electra power house. Upper right—Birdseye view of Electra power house and other buildings. Left center—Headquarters house of superintendent and operatives. Center—Storage and regulating reservoir on mountain above power house. Right center—Original site of power house, which was burned, four miles below present site. Lower left—Tabaud reservoir, having capacity of 50,425,000 cubic feet, used as storage reservoir for supplying cities of Jackson and Sutter Creek and mines in those districts. Lower right—Swimming pool in employees' club house at Electra.

## DAIRYING AND STOCK RAISING



HERE are special facilities for dairying and stock raising in Amador County. The foothills offer an abundance of good feed the year around for horses, cattle, sheep and goats, while the lowlands produce large crops of grain, corn and alfalfa, making dairying a very profitable business.

Alfalfa growing on the lowlands without irrigation makes dairying especially profitable to the farmer with a few acres of bottom land. Alfalfa needs no care, other than planting and harvesting. One planting will last from six to ten years, making an average of six tons per acre per year. Corn also grows without irrigation.

The number of cows in a dairy herd varies from a dozen to several score. In summer they are usually allowed to graze in pastures, but during the winter are fed in large barns. Cream has a ready sale at the local creameries or the neighboring cities. Butter fat usually brings from two to five cents above market quotations. A good cow will yield from sixty to one hundred dollars per year for butter alone, while her calf may be raised on skimmed milk until weaning time, then turned out on pasture at four or six months

of age, and at twelve months is usually worth from twelve to fifteen dollars. The cost of feeding the cow per year will seldom exceed thirty dollars.

Hog raising with dairying is very profitable, as skimmed milk is a great fat producer. Where the farmer has his own separator, and feeds the skimmed milk to his hogs, it is possible to make a hog weigh from one hundred and fifty to two hundred pounds at one year old when fed on skimmed milk alone, which is nearly all profit.

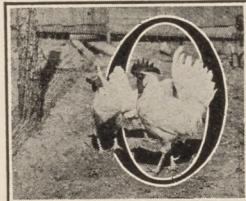
The grass cures on the foothills and makes excellent hay while lying upon the ground, thus providing splendid feed for growing horses and other stock. This relieves the owner of the expense of feeding grain to harden bones and muscle, as is necessary in other parts of the State. Buyers of draft horses for city use or public works throughout the State prefer the horses of Amador County to all others, as they claim that they will stand more heat, and will keep in better shape on the same work and feed, than any horses they can buy elsewhere.

In Amador County there are 18,000 cattle, 2,500 horses, 16,000 hogs, and many thousand sheep and goats.



Amador County Turkeys are In Great Demand

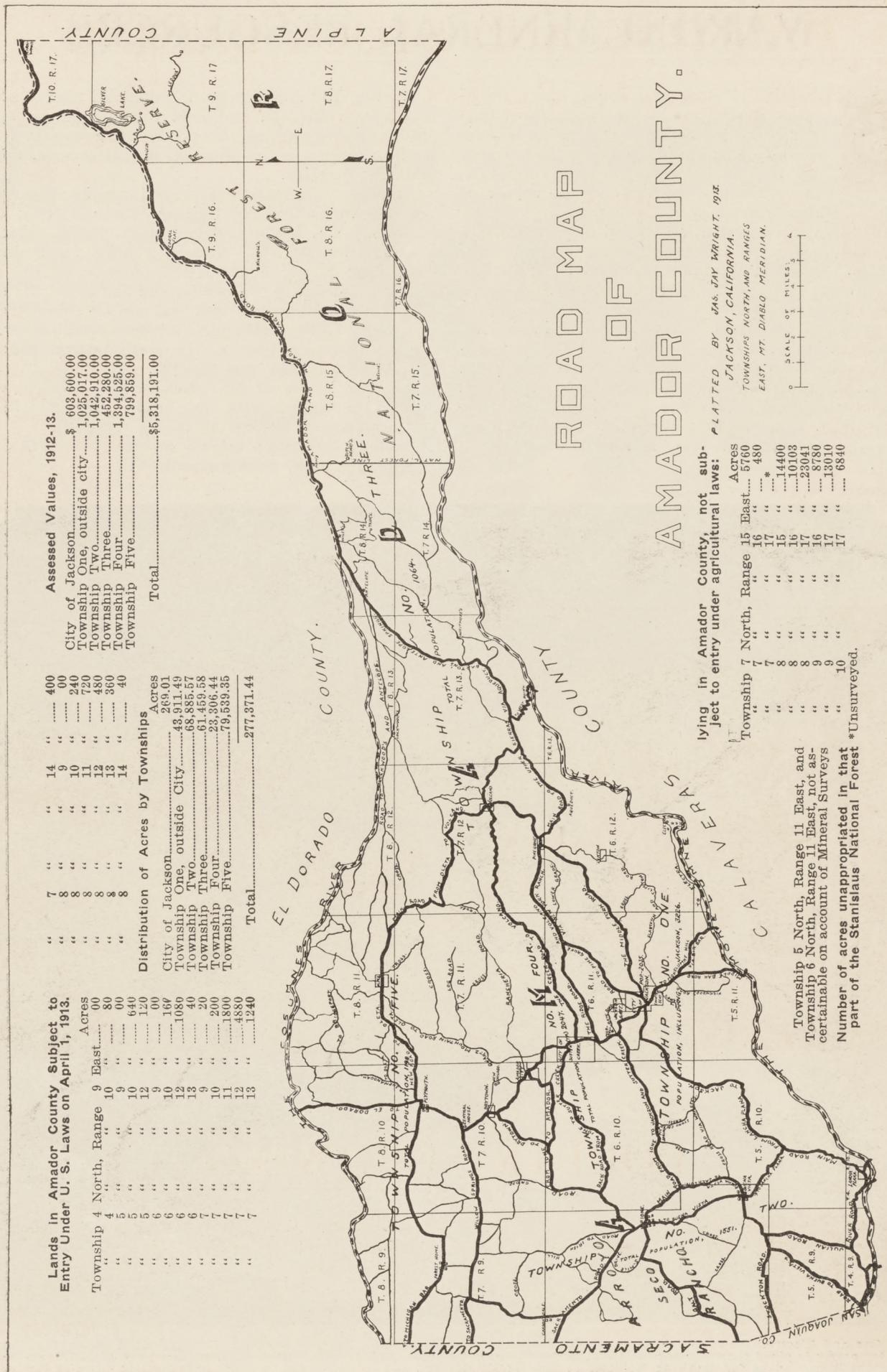
## POULTRY GROWING



IN lines either as a side issue or as a specialized endeavor, poultry in the foothills of Amador county is more profitable than in the East. The climate makes it possible to keep the birds in the open the year through, and large numbers can run together without danger of disease. Green feed is raised

in abundance, alfalfa, Egyptian corn and sunflowers being the favorites with poultrymen.

There is an active local demand, and Sacramento and San Francisco together form a big market close to the raiser. The net profit of a hen, proper care being granted, is not less than \$1 a year, usually more, and frequently \$2.00. The average price of eggs is twenty-five cents a dozen, taking the entire year; at times it goes to fifty cents or more.



## VARIED MINERAL RESOURCES



ESIDES ranking first among the California counties for magnitude of gold output from gold quartz mines, Amador is doing its share in supplying the markets of the world with six other minerals, according to the last official report of the State Mining Bureau.

In 1910 Amador led with an output of \$2,785,767 in quartz gold, Nevada County coming second with \$2,553,204. In 1911 Amador produced \$2,832,395, while Nevada was credited with \$2,199,147. Amador has been showing a steady gain annually for several years past, and promises to hold the lead in this industry for a long time to come.

Among the eleven counties of the State that yield copper it holds fourth place in magnitude of output, Shasta coming first, Calaveras second and San Bernardino third. During 1911 Amador's output of copper as far as reported was 227,848 pounds worth \$28,481.

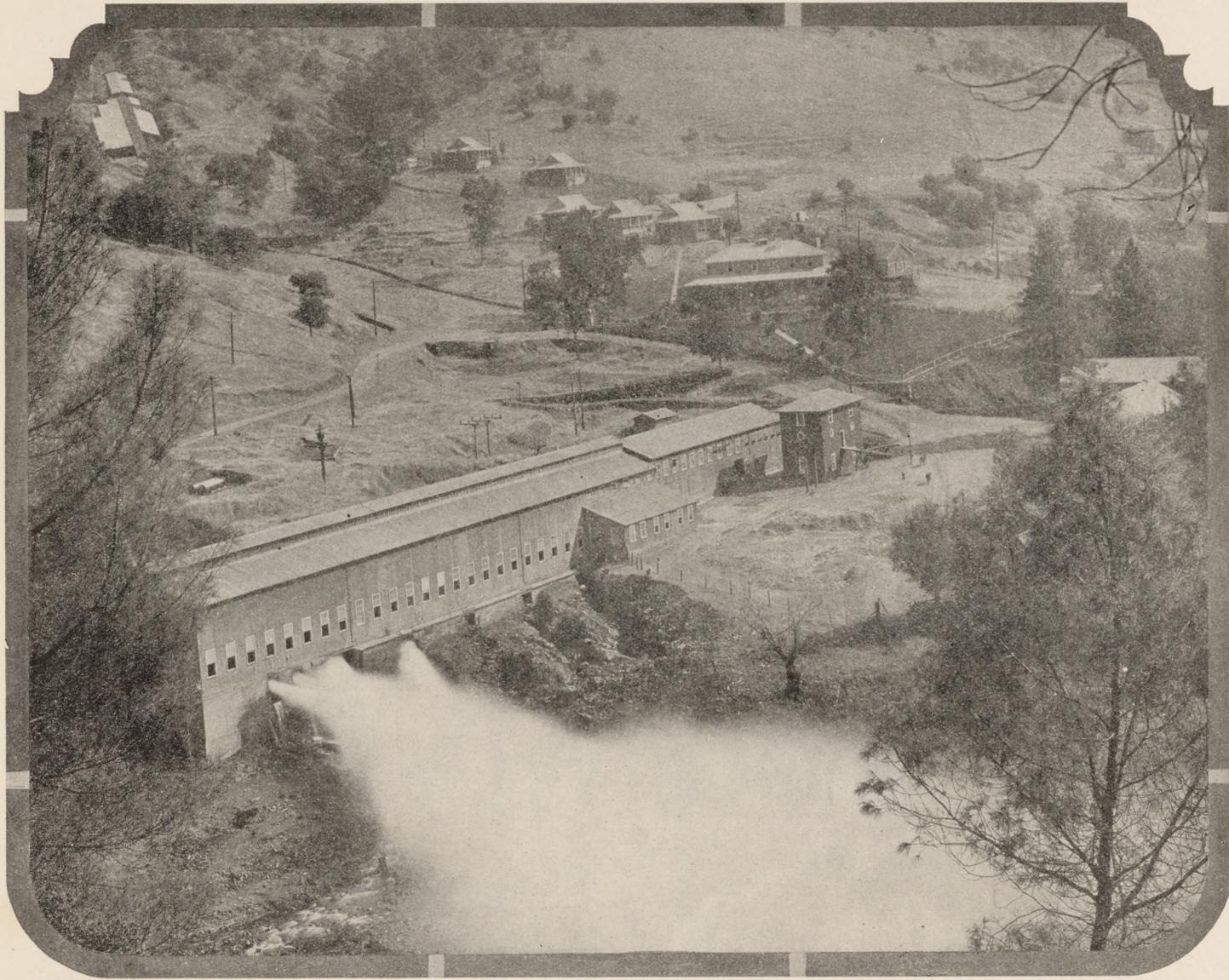
During 1911 Amador produced 43,352 tons of pottery clay worth \$37,395, and held third place among the eleven counties giving this product to commerce. The leading county in this division was Riverside, the second Los Angeles.

Amador County stood second among twenty-two counties furnishing building sandstone (Colusa County was first), being credited with 90,000 cubic feet that sold for \$45,000. Amador County sandstone has been used in the construction of some of the finest public buildings in California, and has stood the severest tests to which such material can be submitted.

Twenty-eight California counties yield silver, and among these Amador is the sixth largest producer. Its credit for 1911 was \$28,899.

Amador is one of the twenty-eight counties which supply the market with clay brick. For 1911 its output aggregated \$20,000 as far as reported.

Among the other known mineral products of the county are lime, asbestos and coal.



Pacific Gas and Electric Company's power house at Electra on the Mokelumne River in Amador County, eight miles from Jackson. Water for power is piped from a point 3,278 feet above the power house. Seven units with a total horse power of 26,810 are operated. The current is carried as far south as Hollister in San Benito County, and is distributed in many counties and cities of Northern and Central California.

## JACKSON, THE COUNTY SEAT

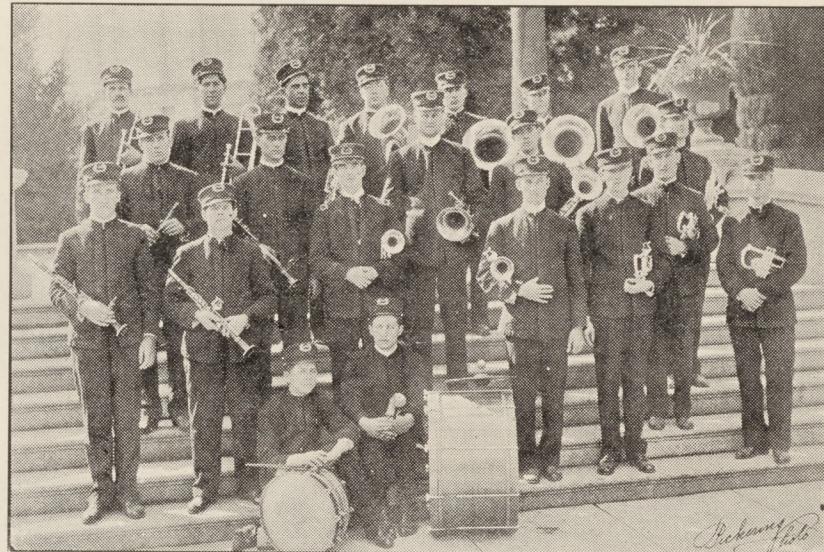


ACKSON, the county seat of Amador County, is picturesquely situated on the famous Mother Lode gold belt of the pine-clad hills of the Sierras.

About the year 1848 some hardy gold seekers came down the three forks of Jackson Creek in search of gold and having found it pitched their tents at the junction of the three creeks. From this small beginning Jackson has grown to be an incorporated city with a population of 3000.

The city has an elevation of 1300 feet, and a most delightful climate. Just six miles south of it is located a famous electric plant of 18,000 horse power which furnishes ample electricity for illumination, heat and power. The principal streets have cement sidewalks and are kept in good condition.

While Jackson is not geographically in the center of the county it is in the center of its population and



The Jackson Military Band

mines, now being developed, and all indications point to their being heavy gold producers. The payroll of these mines is \$60,000 per month.

While Jackson owes its prosperity principally to these mines yet it has other occupations that aid in its upbuilding. Its residences are modern, it has up-to-date business houses of all kinds, good hotels and ample facilities for banking. Among the manufacturing concerns are: a machine shop, soda works, ice and gas plants, candy, cigar, and macaroni factories, and three tailor shops. It has a well equipped volunteer fire department, telephone and telegraph communication, two able weekly newspapers, the Dispatch and the Ledger, a beautiful theatre, four churches, two well equipped grammar school buildings, and a handsome new high school building now in course of construction, the cost of which is about \$25,000. The high school is at present being conducted in one of the grammar school buildings, under the guidance of two teachers. It has an enrollment of 45 pupils.

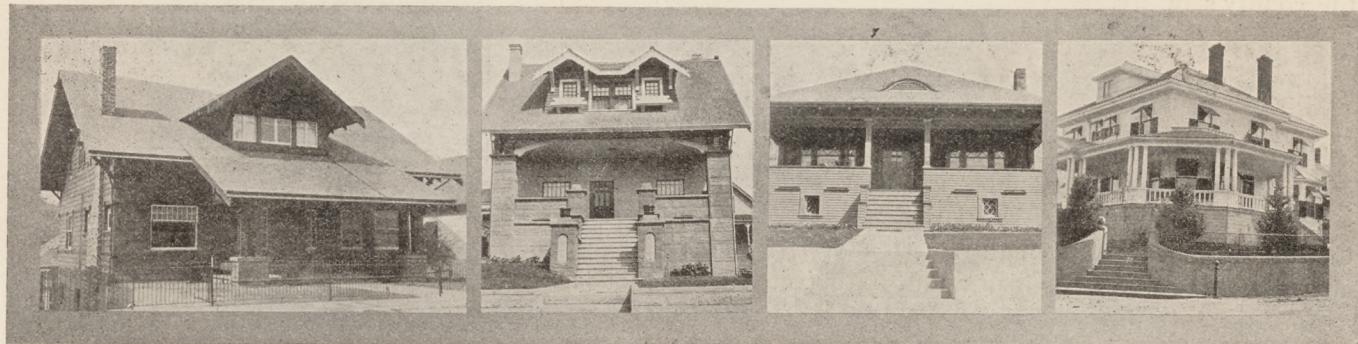
The city is connected with the Southern Pacific Railroad at Ione by a short stage line and the Amador Central Railroad. In the vicinity of Jackson there are plenty of timber, grazing land, and fine farms devoted to the raising of grain, hay, fruit and garden truck.

The homeseeker, who is looking for opportunities to thrive can readily find in or about Jackson an occupation that is congenial and profitable.



Courthouse and Hall of Records, Jackson

wealth. Just outside the city limits are located the famous Kennedy and Argonaut mines. Within the city is located that old standby, the Zeile mine, and just south of it are the South Jackson and Hardenburg

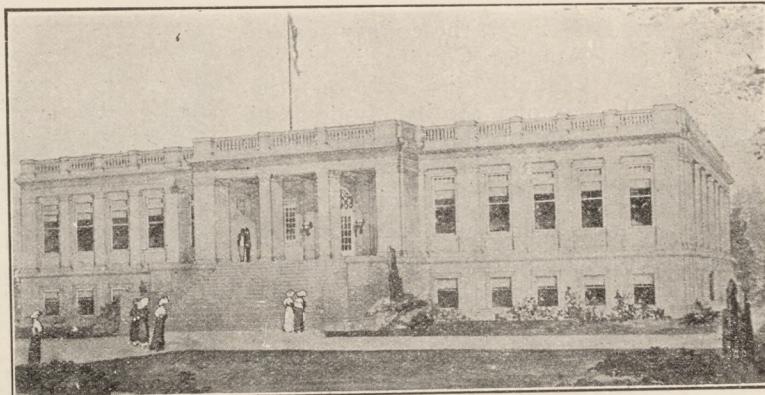


A Quartet of Jackson's Many Modern Homes.

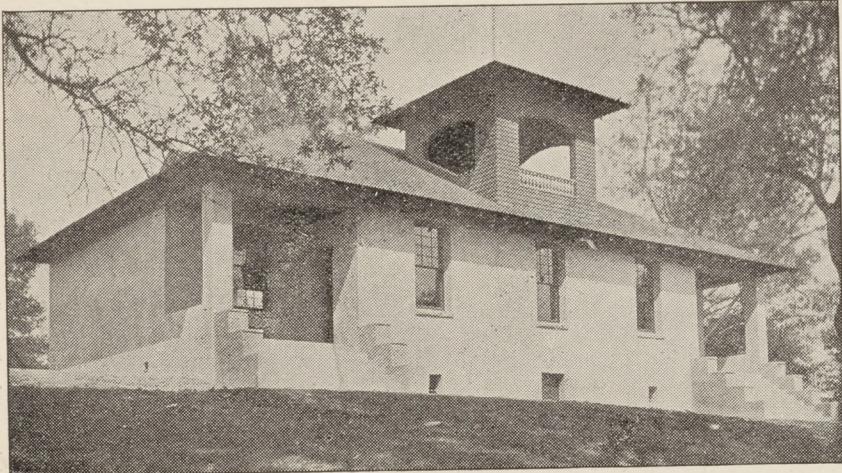
## NEW BUILDINGS



MADOR COUNTY'S educational advantages were never better than today. The teachers in the various public schools are working earnestly for the welfare of the children and the people are giving them their active support and assistance, the tax payers having advanced a large sum during the past year for the improvement of school buildings, grounds and general equipment. The average daily attendance increased during 1912 sufficiently to permit the appointment of additional teachers and the children are doing remarkably well. The Amador



Proposed New County High School at Sutter Creek



Oneida District Schoolhouse at Jackson

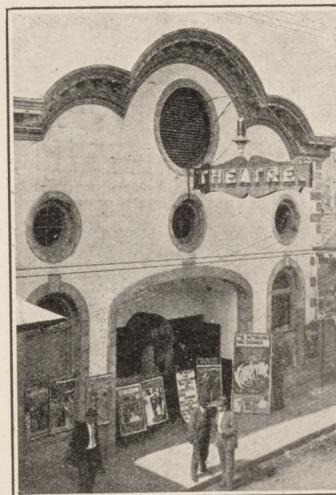
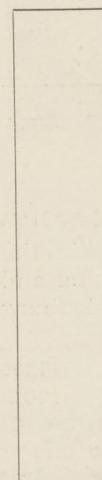
ing on Main street in Sutter Creek, erected for the branch bank of Amador County; the concrete power house in Jackson, used as a sub-station and office by the Amador Electric Light and Power Company, whose main plant is in Sutter Creek; a beautiful new theatre at Jackson, costing \$18,000, and a strictly modern concrete building, just finished, on the Argonaut Mining ground, to be used as an office for the company. These are all beautiful buildings, and the expense incurred in the erection of such substantial structures is an excellent proof of the confidence in the county's future.

### THE HOMESEEKER'S OPPORTUNITY

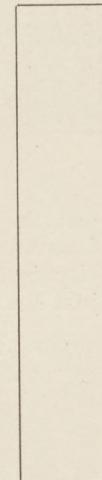
There is no part of California, north or south, that offers greater inducements to the prospective home-seeker and investor than the foothill area of Amador County. Along with the highly productive farms and orchards and vineyards which afford an object lesson as to the results that can be attained by any grower who is industrious and intelligent, there are tens of thousands of acres of equally deep and fertile soil

County High School at Sutter Creek, a result of the work of the Women's Improvement clubs during 1911, now numbers nearly fifty pupils and the temporary quarters will soon become inadequate. For this reason the board of education has made arrangements for the immediate construction of the permanent building at a cost of \$25,000, on the ground donated for that purpose by the citizens of Sutter Creek. The Jackson joint union high school building, on the land purchased from the Argonaut Mining company, will be completed by May first, at a cost of \$25,000.

Other improvements worthy of note are the recently completed concrete build-



New Fire-proof Theater at Jackson



that is unimproved and can be bought at low prices and on easy terms. The comparatively unimproved condition of the foothills of Amador County is the settler's opportunity.

## VOLCANO'S UNDEVELOPED WEALTH



OLCANO, with a small but enterprising population and perched 2162 feet above the sea level, is the most easterly town of the county. Since early times it has been notable for the extent and value of the quartz and gravel mines surrounding it. There is a project in the hands of Sacramento capitalists, and still in its incipiency, but liable to materialize in time, to construct a huge reservoir by throwing a dam across the gorge at the lower end of the town, and backing up the headwaters of Sutter Creek and its tributaries, forming a long and wide lake which would store many million gallons of water. This water would be primarily used to develop electric power for use in the foothills of Amador County and in the Sacramento Valley, and after that it would be diverted through canals for irrigation to various parts of Amador County and the adjacent valley lands. The execution of these plans would involve the removal of the town of Volcano to some adjacent site outside of the proposed reservoir's area.

But be this as it may, Volcano has greater latent wealth than has been found in its mineral possessions. It is the heart of a large territory of hills covered with deep and fertile soil that produces deciduous fruits and certain garden and farm products in perfection. The apples, peaches and strawberries grown in that sec-



Birdseye View of Volcano

tion have rare flavor and remarkable keeping qualities, and command a premium among experienced buyers. The output of the soil products from the vicinities of Volcano, Pine Grove and their neighborhood is steadily increasing, owing to the new acreage being planted from year to year.

An excellent quality of fire clay is found around Volcano and the brick used in building the three-story hotel and the town's business houses were made there, and the material for the various stone buildings was quarried in the immediate vicinity. Lime and marble are also products of the district.



Upper left—Presbyterian Church, Lone; upper right, M. E. Church, Jackson; lower right, Episcopal Church, Sutter Creek; lower left, Catholic Church, Lone.

## AMADOR A GREAT PRODUCER



**N** the current issue of the Blue Book of California, just from the presses, Secretary of State Frank C. Jordan officially pays high tribute to Amador County. He says of it:

Popularly known as "Little Amador," the county, small when compared with neighbors, is great as a producer of wealth.

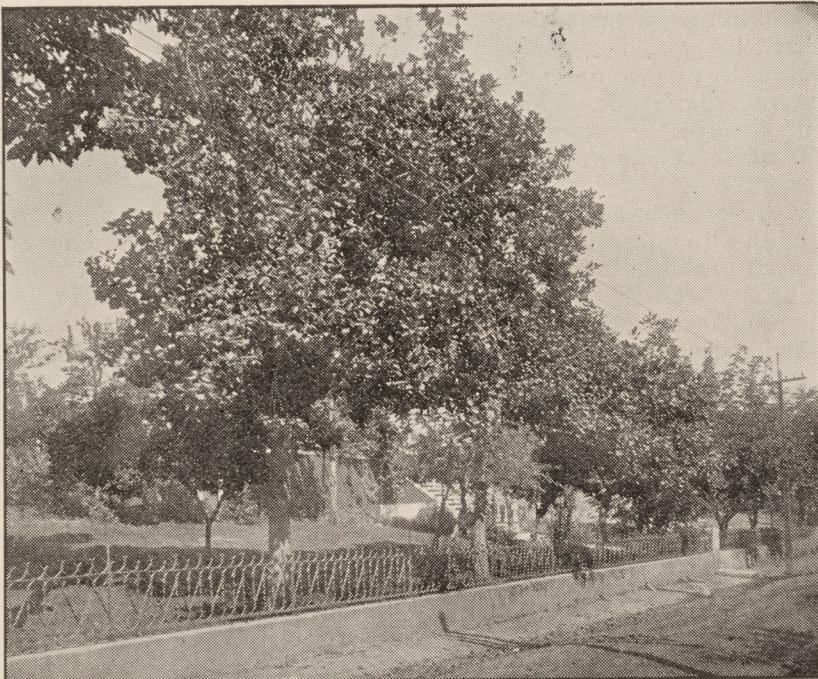
Its western boundary touches Sacramento and San Joaquin counties, and with the Cosumnes on the north and the Mokelumne on the south it follows the western slope of the Sierra Nevada Mountains, reaching an altitude of 7000 feet. There is every kind of soil from the alluvium of the valleys, the red lands on the mineral belt, and the granite of the upper foothill sections. The climate is that of the foothill region

can now successfully cope with great depths and low grade ores. Mines which were closed years ago are now expected to yield handsome revenues. Aside from its gold mines, copper is found on two belts.

Coal has been mined at Carbondale for years. Within the last three years an excellent grade of coal has been found under Jackson Valley. At a depth of 80 feet an eleven foot vein has been cut, and from present indications the deposit promises to warrant its being mined on a large scale.

An excellent grade of potter's clay is shipped from near Ione. Lime, rock, marble and sandstone exist in large quantities. Of the latter, a large portion entered into the construction of the Sacramento post office.

The Pacific Gas and Electric Company has a generating plant at Electra, eight miles east of Jackson,



Some Foothill Magnolia Trees

for which central California has become famous. The rainy season commences in October and ends in May. There never has been a complete failure of crops. All lines of farming are followed and slowly the agricultural and horticultural interests are increasing the county's wealth. The valleys produce crops which find a ready market, many of the growers preferring to supply towns on the mineral belt to outside markets. Wheat, oats, barley and corn can usually be relied upon to mature without irrigation.

Truck gardens are found everywhere and the owners look to the mining towns for their markets.

While the county has the soil and climate for the usual products of the soil, it is the output of her mines which has made the name of Amador famous. The Mother Lode crosses the county for a distance of twenty miles, and from the bonanzas already found millions have been produced. Old mines are being reopened—mines which had records and were shut down. Depth was formerly a draw back, but modern methods

which develops 33,000 horse power and the current is sent to Stockton, San Jose, and the bay cities.

There is ample room for more farmers; large areas of land are yet untouched. The minerals, precious as well as economic, are barely prospected as yet.

The principal towns are Jackson (pop. 2035, county seat), Sutter Creek, Amador City, Drytown, Plymouth, Oleta, Volcano, and Ione. All are mining towns except the last named.

The county is easily reached by the Amador Central Railroad connecting with the Southern Pacific at Ione, and since its completion five years ago has been of material aid in the development of the gold mines along the Mother Lode.

The United States Census, 1910, gives the number of trees of bearing April 15, 1910, and the product of each variety in 1909, as follows: 8592 apples, product 11,990 bushels; 1197 apricots, product 949 bushels; 10,685 plums and prunes, product 11,880 bushels; 16,349

(Continued on page 24)

## HOW AMADOR WAS PUT ON THE MAP



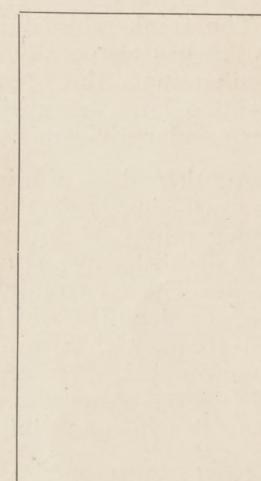
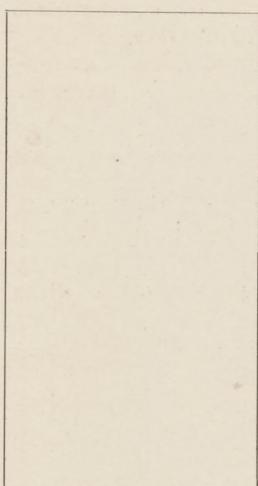
**N** 1846 General Sutter with a few white men entered the region now known as Amador County and having some Indians sawed lumber for a ferry boat in the cluster of sugar pines on the ridge between Sutter and Amador creeks, about four miles above the present sites of the towns of Sutter Creek and Amador. This visit is the first authentic report of the presence of white men in Amador County.

The first recorded gold discovery in Amador County

sented the opening of a saloon near his claim and left in disgust, never to return.

The first discovery of quartz gold was made by a Baptist preacher named Davidson, in February, 1851, on the south side of Amador Creek. The quartz mining excitement grew so rapidly that the same year two mills were erected, hundreds of prospectors dropped their placer claims to work in quartz, and a convention of quartz miners was held and local mining laws were adopted.

Amador County was created May 11, 1854, being carved from that part of Calaveras County north of



A Local Logging Scene

was made in the spring of 1848, a man named Tuleburgh exhibiting at Stockton specimens of scale gold found near the site of Sutters mill. The rush to that locality began at once, and that year the Mokelumne River and the gulches at Drytown, Volcano and Ione men mined extensively. General Sutter and his party tried their luck near the town of Sutter, but he re-

the Mokelumne River. In 1856-7 a strip lying south of the Cosumnes River was transferred from El Dorado County to Amador. Jackson has been the county seat from the time of the original organization in 1854, the vote for that distinction obtained by the rival towns being: Jackson 1002, Volcano 937, Sutter Creek 539, Ione 496.

### POWER FROM THE SIERRA NEVADAS

A great factor in the growth of inland California has been the development within the last fifteen years of hydro-electric power from the mountain streams. In the higher mountain regions of Amador County and other portions of the rugged Sierras, where the snow lies silent under the calm of centuries, is stored up power greater than that to be found in all the rest of the states of the union combined. These ever flowing streams hold sufficient energy to move the ponderous machines of the world. Sending their energies in radiating wires, they are now moving cars, mills and factories and giving light and heat. More than 450,000 horse power of electric energy is now developed where 15 years ago none existed and where 10,000 horse power was developed by steam. Millions of dollars are now being expended on these enterprises and by the possibility of low power new industries have been located and thousands of acres along the San Joaquin and Sacramento rivers have been reclaimed. Mining has especially felt the new influence. In scores of mines electric power is turning the machinery and the glow of the electric bulb has banished the

candle. Throughout the Mother Lode, of which Amador County is the heart, a revival of mining is in progress which gives promise of an enormous increase in gold production.



Grown In Sutter Creek

## Leads All California in Mining

(Continued from page 13)

The Monteverde and Sciaroni boys of Sutter Creek have done considerable development work on the Gover, has also installed a modern steel hoist and is and have uncovered specimen ore in quantities sufficient to justify the installation of machinery suitable for the extensive development of the claim.

The prosperity of the Fremont-Gover property is evidenced by the fine new steel gallows frame which that company has erected at its main working shaft, which is 2150 feet deep. The ground has been extensively prospected to the 1650 level and is being opened at the 1950 and 2150. There is a forty-stamp mill and 130 men are employed.

The Bunker Hill mine, just south of the Fremont-Gover has also installed a modern steel hoist and is well equipped throughout. Both these great mines are yielding large quantities of high grade ore and paying regular dividends.

Another piece of mining ground likely to come into its own shortly is the combined Wildman and Mahoney mines in Sutter Creek, now being prospected at a depth by means of a long drift from the Lincoln mine. These two mines are known to contain extensive ore deposits, which, if developed at depth, cannot fail to be highly profitable. Some mining is being done on the other levels of the Lincoln mine, with a fair degree of success, but the main hope of the company lies in the Wildman-Mahoney ground.

Next south of the Wildman ground lies Hetty Green's famous "Old Eureka" mine, which it is hoped will soon be given a chance to prove that the former operators did not exhaust its resources.

Patent is now pending on the Alpha mining claim, adjoining the Old Eureka on the west, and operations will be started there, it is understood, as soon as the government puts the title into the desired shape.

The East Eureka, or Poundstone mine, just east of Sutter Creek has also been equipped with a new twenty-stamp mill during the year and prospects are very good there for highly profitable mining.

The Defender section in the East Belt is another portion of the county attracting considerable attention of late. This is partly due to the discovery of specimen ore on the Pitts claim, several thousand dollars having been cleaned up as the result of a few weeks work. The claim has so far been worked only a few feet below the surface and the owners have used the most primitive methods, but the result has been so good that other miners in that section are working diligently in the hope of opening up claims of equal value.

The South Spring Hill mine at Amador City has produced \$2,500,000 and paid \$250,000 in dividends besides erecting an extensive modern plant and expending large sums in litigation.

The Zeile, just south of Jackson, has been in operation for many years and has yielded much bullion.

Half a mile south of Sutter is the Central Eureka, which has paid \$1,000,000 in dividends. It has been successfully operated for many years and still has vast ore bodies in reserve.

## Amador Great Producer

(Continued from page 22)

peaches and nectarines, product 20,606 bushels; 5112 pears, product 4430 bushels; 314,604 grapevines of bearing age, product 2,743,320 pounds; 151 oranges, product 283 boxes; 8 lemons, product 12 boxes; 274 olives, product 2600 pounds; 347 figs, product 24,315 pounds; 628 almonds, product 3931 pounds; 185 English walnuts, product 3266 pounds; 1143 chessies, product 1588 bushels.

It also gives the land area as 384,640 acres and the land in farms in the county as aggregating 291,730 acres. The value of all farm property was \$4,820,809; of domestic animals, poultry and bees, \$836,610; there were 22,266 cows, heifers, steers, bulls and calves, valued at \$506,380; 2685 horses and colts, valued at \$233,128; 239 mules and colts, valued at \$27,590; 23 asses and burros, valued at \$458; 5296 swine, valued at \$32,647; 6645 sheep, valued at \$20,023; 1697 goats, valued at \$3673; 23,630 poultry of all kinds, valued at \$12,380; and 170 colonies of bees, valued at \$331. The butter product for year ending September 30, 1911, was 150,000 pounds.

The acreage planted to principal crops in, and yield for 1909, was: Corn, 301 acres, 12,526 bushels; oats, 1354 acres, 30,813 bushels; wheat, 293 acres, 5169 bushels; barley, 1513 acres, 29,071 bushels; dry edible beans, 3 acres, 31 bushels; potatoes, 125 acres, 14,054 bushels; alfalfa, 1724 acres, 4778 tons; grains cut green for hay, 8090 acres, 8651 tons.

Acreage irrigated in 1909, 826; acreage enterprises were capable of irrigating in 1910, 3973; acreage included in irrigation projects, 4139; cost of enterprises up to July 1, 1910, \$265,608.

### MINES OF THE EAST BELT.

The East Mining Belt of Amador County, embracing Volcano, Pine Grove, Pioneer and Oleta districts, contains many rich deposits of gold bearing quartz and gravel and has for years been a large contributor to the wealth of the country. In early times the placer claims were tremendously rich, and they enriched numerous pioneer prospectors. Then followed the eras of deep gravel mining and the discovery and development of hundreds of rich quartz veins which gave large returns. It is claimed that no part of the State offers greater inducements in a mining way today than does the East Belt of Amador County. Its principal needs at this time in a mining way are capital and capable management, such as have resulted in the successful operation of the Mother Lode to the west. From time to time remarkably rich finds in quartz are made in that section, one of the more recent being the Pitts claim at Pine Grove where superficial operations have resulted in the extraction of considerable "jewelry quartz."

### A COUNTY OF GOOD ROADS.

A State highway leads from Jackson, the county seat, to the north-eastern part of the county, at Silver Lake, and to Alpine and El Dorado County points, making a beautiful automobile tour. Good wagon roads have been built throughout the county and connect with those of San Joaquin, Sacramento and other bordering counties. The county supervisors are making a fine record in the work of improving and maintaining the county thoroughfares.

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We present the following evidence of our merit, which should be sufficient to warrant an investigation if you are interested:

The primary and grammar grade schools of Amador, Calaveras, El Dorado, Tuolumne, Mariposa, and San Joaquin Counties have a higher standard of proficiency than ever before and it is generally conceded that the personnel of the public school teachers in these counties is higher than ever before.

IN AMADOR COUNTY there are thirty-eight primary and grammar grade schools with fifty-five teachers. Fourteen of these or more than twenty-five per cent are Western Normal graduates.

EL DORADO COUNTY has fifty-four primary and grammar grade schools with fifty-nine teachers. Fourteen of these or nearly twenty-five per cent are graduates of the Western Normal.

CALAVERAS COUNTY has sixty-eight teachers in her elementary schools, twenty-four, or thirty-five per cent, of whom received their preparation for teaching at the Western Normal.

TUOLUMNE COUNTY employs eight Western Normal graduates out of her fifty-one public school teachers.

IN MARIPOSA COUNTY there are twenty-nine teachers, eleven or nearly forty per cent of whom have received their training at the Western Normal.

IN SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY, where we are best known, sixty per cent of the teachers outside of the incorporated cities are Western Normal graduates, and twenty-five per cent of the primary and grammar grade teachers in Stockton are also graduates of this school.

The Western Normal has now been in business for nearly twelve years. It sends out yearly from Ninety to One Hundred graduates. Its success is due to the fact that it renders superior service and saves its patrons time and money.

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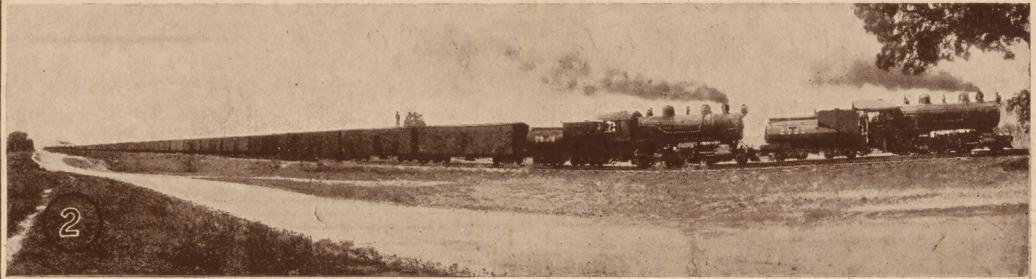
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